

HEALTHIER™ COLORADO

2026 Ballot Guide



Why We Created This Ballot Guide

Healthier Colorado is a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to advocating on behalf of everyday Coloradans to change laws and systems so that everyone has a fair chance at living a healthy life. We work to improve the physical, mental, and social health of the people of our state through lobbying, state legislative campaigns, research, policy development, and advocacy.

This year, Colorado voters will decide on an array of ballot measures with real consequences for the health of the people of Colorado. Ahead of the midterms, we decided to share our pro-health positions on the measures that will most directly affect Coloradans' ability to live healthy lives.

Big decisions will be made this November, and we're hopeful this ballot guide can help inform Coloradans how their vote connects to their own health and the health of our communities.

This guide is our way of bringing our public health expertise to the ballot box.



Statewide Measure

OPPOSE

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PROPOSITION 132

Penalties for Fentanyl Crimes

This ballot measure would significantly increase prison sentences for drug offenses where fentanyl has been detected.

PRO-HEALTH POSITION

Fentanyl is a real threat to Colorado families, and everyone wants to see fewer overdose deaths in our state. But Proposition 132 would take Colorado in the wrong direction. The proven way to prevent addiction and overdose deaths is not through punitive measures or incarceration, but through a public health approach that connects people to prevention services, access to treatment, harm reduction tools, and recovery support.

LEARN MORE ABOUT PROPOSITION 132

Proposition 132 would make any amount of fentanyl possession a felony, including for first-time offenders. It would impose an 8 to 32-year prison sentence for minor, first-time cases, even if the person didn't know fentanyl was present. This sentence is currently used for only the most serious drug trafficking cases.

A Colorado-specific analysis modeling the relationship between criminal legal policies, treatment cases, and overdose outcomes found that if Initiative 85 passes, it could result in a substantial increase in overdose deaths in Colorado by 41% over five years.

Moreover, the state's nonpartisan legislative council prepared a cost estimate and found that this measure would send nearly 900 additional people to prison each year and cost taxpayers an estimated \$433 million over the first five years.

Visit the campaign website:

<https://www.ccjrc.org/fentanylballotmeasure>

PROPOSITION 134

Male and Female Participation in School Sports

This measure takes decisions away from parents, schools, and athletic experts and hands them to the government.

PRO-HEALTH POSITION

Every Colorado kid should have the opportunity to participate in school sports as part of a healthy lifestyle. School sports support kids' physical and mental health by allowing them to exercise, foster friendships, and build confidence. Proposition 134 puts that access at risk.

LEARN MORE ABOUT PROPOSITION 134

Proposition 134 would strip local schools, athletic associations, and parents of their authority to set sports eligibility policies, replacing them with a government-mandated and enforced rule that does not allow parents or schools to appeal government decisions. As it is currently written, this ballot measure would put any young kid, not just transgender athletes, at risk of an invasive gender check and scrutiny for being too tall or too strong.

Kids shouldn't have to go through invasive and humiliating processes just to belong, participate, and be part of a sports team.

Visit the campaign website

<https://familiesnotpolitics.com/#measures>



Statewide Measure

OPPOSE

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PROPOSITION 135

Prohibit Certain Surgeries on Minors

Proposition 135 takes healthcare decisions out of the hands of parents and doctors and puts them in the hands of the government.

PRO-HEALTH POSITION

Colorado kids deserve access to high-quality medical care. Proposition 135 would make it harder for families and doctors to provide individualized care, replacing that judgment with a blanket government rule. Medical decisions should be made based on patient needs and clinical expertise

LEARN MORE ABOUT PROPOSITION 135

Colorado law already requires parental consent for a minor's surgical care. This measure doesn't add a new safeguard; it overrides a process that already includes parents and ties doctors' hands, preventing them from providing medically necessary care for serious conditions that affect kids well beyond transgender youth.

Care for transgender teens already follows a careful, evidence-based process. A team of doctors and mental health professionals works with parents, usually over the course of years, to determine what kind of care is right, if any.

Families, along with doctors and mental health professionals, should have the freedom to decide what is best for their own children.

Visit the campaign website

<https://familiesnotpolitics.com/#measures>



Statewide Measure



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PROPOSITION NN

TABOR Revenue Cap Increase for K-12 Education

Proposition NN will give schools the resources they need to ensure Colorado students can succeed by putting billions of dollars into our public schools without raising taxes.

PRO-HEALTH POSITION

Giving every Colorado student a fair chance to succeed is one of the most effective ways to set them up for a healthy life. Smaller class sizes and a stable teaching workforce in K-12 education will help more kids achieve early success, positioning them to live healthier lives as adults.

LEARN MORE ABOUT PROPOSITION NN

Ranking 43rd in the country, Colorado's public education is chronically underfunded. This means overcrowded classrooms and qualified educators leaving the state or profession. This measure would require the limit on school funding to go up by at least 2% annually, so schools get more money each year and fewer kids fall behind – all without raising taxes.

These funds will go toward teacher salaries, teacher retention, smaller class sizes, and career and vocational education. Experienced teachers provide consistent, high-quality instruction that supports student learning. Additionally, when kids are taught by passionate, qualified educators, they are more likely to achieve more.

Prop NN requires the state and individual school districts to perform annual, independent audits of how the funds are being spent to ensure every dollar is being used as voters intended and that Colorado kids are benefiting from this investment.

Visit the campaign website:

<https://www.yesforcoloradokids.com/>





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